

a second frame member attached to the rear end of the hopper, the second frame member having a second pair of wheels attached thereto;

an extension extending downwardly from the open bottom proximate the front end, the extension having a pair of sloped side edges joined by a flat bottom edge; and

a skid attached to the rear end, the skid having a pair of sloped side surfaces joined by a flat bottom surface; and

wherein the hopper is adapted to receive concrete therein and deposit the concrete onto the ground through the open bottom such that the extension grades the ground prior to the concrete being deposited and the extension rear edge of the open bottom screeds the concrete so deposited and the skid slip forms the concrete so screeded.

Claim 2 (original).

The ditch forming apparatus as in claim 1 further comprising a tongue attached to the first frame member, the tongue adapted to be attached to a locomotion device.

Claim 3 (previously presented).

The ditch forming apparatus as in claim 1 further comprising:

a first pair of stanchions slidably attached to the first frame member in spaced apart fashion and spaced apart from the first pair of wheels, the first pair of stanchions capable of being secured in a fixed position relative to the first frame member; and

a second pair of stanchions slidably attached to the second frame member in spaced apart fashion and spaced apart from the second pair of wheels, the second pair of stanchions capable of being secured in a fixed position relative to the second frame member.

Claim 4 (original).

The ditch forming apparatus as in claim 1 wherein the open

top is larger than the open bottom.

Claim 5 (original).

The ditch forming apparatus as in claim 1 wherein the hopper has an upper section and a lower section wherein the upper section is wider than the lower section.

Claim 6 (original).

The ditch forming apparatus as in claim 1 further comprising at least one brace extending between the front end and the rear end.

Claim 7 (original).

The ditch forming apparatus as in claim 6 further comprising a chain attached to the brace.

Claim 8 (previously presented).

The ditch forming apparatus as in claim 1 further comprising an H-shaped baffle removably positioned within the hopper in order to retard the flow of the concrete from the hopper through the open bottom.

Claim 9 (canceled).

Claim 10 (canceled).

Claim 11 (canceled).

Claim 12 (canceled).

Claim 13 (canceled).

Claim 14 (canceled).

Claim 15 (canceled).

Claim 16 (canceled).

Claim 17 (currently amended).

A method of forming a ditch comprising the steps of:

- placing a pair of coextensive forms on the ground;
- providing a ditch forming apparatus having a hopper having, a front end and a rear end joined by a pair of side members, an outer surface, and inner surface, an open top, an open bottom having an outer periphery that has a front edge that terminates proximate the front end, a first edge that terminates proximate the first side, a rear edge that terminates proximate the rear end, and a second edge that terminates proximate the second side, a first frame member attached to the front end of the hopper, the first frame member having a first pair of wheels attached thereto and a second frame member attached to the rear of the hopper, the second frame member having a second pair of wheels attached thereto, an extension extending downwardly from the open bottom proximate the front end, the extension having a pair of sloped side edges joined by a flat bottom edge, and a skid attached to the rear end, the skid having a pair of sloped side surfaces joined by a flat bottom surface;
- placing the first pair of wheels and the second pair of wheels on the pair of forms;
- placing concrete into the hopper; and
- pulling the ditch forming apparatus along the pair of forms; and

wherein the concrete drains from the hopper through the open bottom onto the ground such that the extension grades the ground prior to the concrete being drained onto the ground and the extension rear edge of the open bottom screeds the concrete so deposited and the skid slip forms the concrete so screeded

Claim 18 (original).

The method as in claim 17 wherein the ditch forming machine is pulled via a tongue attached to the first frame member.

Claim 19 (previously presented).

The method as in claim 17 wherein the ditch forming machine further comprises a first pair of stanchions slidably attached to the first frame member in spaced apart fashion and spaced apart from the first pair of wheels, the first pair of stanchions capable of being secured in a fixed position relative to the first frame member and a second pair of stanchions slidably attached to the second frame member in spaced apart fashion and spaced apart from the second pair of wheels, the second pair of stanchions capable of being secured in a fixed position relative to the second frame member.

Claim 20 (original).

The method as in claim 17 wherein the open top is larger than the open bottom.

Claim 21 (original).

The method as in claim 17 wherein the hopper has an upper section and a lower section wherein the upper section is wider than the lower section.

Claim 22 (original).

The method as in claim 17 wherein the ditch forming machine further comprises at least one brace extending between the front end and the rear end.

Claim 23 (original).

The method as in claim 22 further comprising a chain attached to the brace.

Claim 24 (previously presented).

The method as in claim 17 further comprising an H-shaped baffle removably positioned within the hopper in order to retard the flow of the concrete from the hopper through the open bottom.